# A Shared Energy Vision for Greater Philadelphia, January 2016

## Submitted by Liz Robinson

## Introduction:

The Energy Vision Working Group was convened in October 2015 by Penn’s Kleinman Center for Energy Policy and Drexel’s Institute for Energy and the Environment. Facilitated by Raab Associates, twenty leaders on energy, the economy, and the environment worked through four months of intensive, confidential meetings and exercises. This is the only process to date in which these diverse and often contending interests were present and represented by people with a powerful influence over the future. It was initially far from certain whether such a group could agree on anything, but the Energy Vision Working Group crafted this shared vision, signed by all the parties below. This vision is intended to provide a basis for further discussions, among larger numbers of stakeholder groups and citizens, exploring specific technical and social issues, and informing the decisions of public policymakers over the coming years.

## Shared Energy Vision:

Greater Philadelphia’s energy strategy should commit to **realizing the region’s full potential** for an economy that provides many good-paying, long-lasting jobs for residents while promoting clean air and water, providing clean and reliable energy, protecting ecosystems, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with city, regional, and national goals.

The proximity of shale resources to the Greater Philadelphia workforce and infrastructure provides aneconomic development opportunity for the region to leverage a global market, in concert with the acceleration of the regional development and deployment of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other zero/low-emissions resources.

1. Shale resources include both natural gas and natural gas liquids, which together create multiple potential value-chains in the region.
2. Capitalizing on these opportunities should be done in a manner completely consistent with city, regional, and national goals for **protecting health, the environment, and the climate**.

A broad and equitable distribution of these benefits requires a new career pipeline framework created by a **partnership of employers, the education sector** (including high school, community college, and secondary) and workforce developmentsystem to support skills demanded by employers in all aspects of the energy economy and related fields throughout the entire value chain. The evolving energy economy in Greater Philadelphia should provide appropriate opportunities for entering, transitioning, and chronically un/underemployed segments of the regional population.

Greater Philadelphia’s path from a too-high-emissions present to a low-enough-emissions future must **maximize a range of clean energy resources and technologies** that collectively can expand opportunities for our residents and employers and meet health, environmental, and climate goals.

1. Renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other zero/low-carbon energy resources in the energy and transportation sectors are essential to achieving city, regional, and national goals and accelerated development and deployment should begin immediately. (not clear what is meant by “energy” or “transportation” here)
2. Greater Philadelphia should support a utility of the future strategy that promotes infrastructure modernization of the distribution systems, environmental improvement, and customer-focused innovation that maximizes the expansion of clean energy and efficient use of our energy resources while recognizing the ongoing need for affordable, universally-available utility service.

**Public energy investments** made in support of Greater Philadelphia’s energy strategy should be evaluated by accounting for economic, social, environmental, and health impacts over the life of the measures. Investment in energy resources with zero emissions must receive top priority in public investment.

*The following individuals participated in the Greater Philadelphia Energy Vision Working Group and endorse this Vision statement.  We note these individuals' organizational affiliation for identification purposes only, and not to imply formal endorsement of their organization.*

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*A special thanks to all those who served as alternates in this process: Daniel Bauder (AFL-CIO), Thomas Bonner (Exelon), Adam Garber (PennEnvironment), Greg Gatta (PES), Rob Graff (DVRPC), Matthew Stepp (PennFuture), Matt Walker (Clean Air Council), and John Zuk (PGW).*